

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/803,979

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend specification as follows:

Page 4, line 31 to Page 5, line 5, are amended as follows:

Preferably the aqueous coating composition in accordance with a first aspect of this invention comprises a mixture of starch and plant protein in water having a solids content of 3% w/w to 30% w/w, a protein content of 4% w/w to 50% w/w of the total solids, a viscosity of about 1 to about 100 ~~centapoise~~centipoises, and a pH from about pH 7.5 to about pH 9, wherein the starch is gelatinised and both the starch and protein in the mixture are alkali oxidised at a pH from about pH 8 to about pH 13, for about 5 to about 30 minutes at a temperature of about 70°C to about 150°C.

Page 6, lines 16-18, are amended as follows:

- (b) heating the mixture concomitantly with oxidation or subsequent to oxidation to provide a composition with a viscosity from 1 to 100 ~~centapoise~~centipoises, and a pH from pH 7.5 to pH 9.

Page ⁶~~16~~, lines 24-27, are amended as follows:

The process provides a flowable aqueous coating composition for coating paper, paperboard or cardboard, which comprises an oxidised mixture comprising starch and protein, wherein said mixture is gelatinised and the composition has a pH from pH 7.5 to pH 9 and a viscosity from 1 to 100 ~~centapoise~~centipoises.

Page 11, lines 27-31, are amended as follows:

In accordance with another aspect this invention relates to paper, coated with a coating composition as herein described. The paper is coated with an aqueous coating composition which